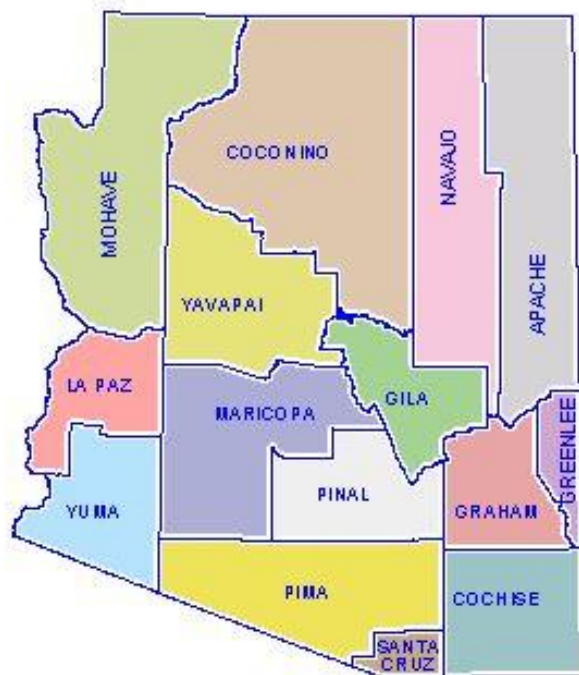


Geographic Snapshot: Arizona HIV Prevention

This document is adapted from the 2007-2011 State of Arizona Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan (page 9). While there are no longer separate regional planning groups this overview is helpful for understanding the unique qualities of Arizona.

NOTE that facts and population data here are as of the Plan release in 2007.



Northern Arizona	
Mohave	Coconino
Yavapai	Navajo
Apache	Gila
Central Arizona	
Maricopa	
Pinal	
Southern Arizona	
La Paz	Yuma
Pima	Santa Cruz
Cochise	
Graham	Greenlee

Arizona's fifteen counties and table showing counties included in each region

Arizona is unique in that it includes three distinct regions, each with specific public health concerns. In the center of the state the Phoenix metropolitan area contains one of the largest cities in the US. Southern Arizona has an international border. The North is vast and in health context is described as either "rural" or, in many cases, "frontier". Each region is unique due in great part to the geographic diversity in the state. This document contains general information about each region that will be helpful in understanding areas of HIV prevention focus.

North

The northern region is comprised of six counties: Mohave, Yavapai, Coconino, Gila, Navajo and Apache. The area stretches from the border with California and Nevada approximately 300 miles east to the New Mexico state line. The extreme north-south axis is 235 miles extending from the Utah border to Cochise County in the Southern Region. It contains a total of over 66,000 square miles (close to the size of Washington State) and a population of just over 789,000.

The largest community in the region is Flagstaff, with 62,000 residents. Lake Havasu City has a population of 54,600 and Kingman has 39,900 persons. Other communities in the region with populations over 10,000 include Sedona, Prescott, Payson, and Safford. Most of the Northern region is classifiable as either rural or frontier. The sparse

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population density poses many challenges both for prevention and care of persons living with HIV.

African Americans make up 1% of the region's population. American Indians constitute 77% of the population of Apache County and 48% of the population of Navajo County. Coconino County is 28 % American Indian. Hispanics account for 10% of the populations of Coconino, Yavapai and Mohave counties.

Key HIV prevention issues in the Northern region include: rural health care delivery concerns and disparities, transportation, stigma, limited service delivery areas by county and other health departments or providers due to population density (as much of the region is considered frontier), transportation and access to resources.

Central

The central region contains just two counties: Maricopa and Pinal. The region is approximately 125 miles east to west, and 110 miles from north to south. It contains a total of 14,596 square miles (slightly larger than Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island combined) and a population of 4,092,550 persons, most residing in the metro Phoenix area. Phoenix is the largest city in the state and fifth largest in the country with a population of over 1,500,000. It is also the state capital and County seat of Maricopa County. The adjoining cities of Mesa, Glendale, Scottsdale, Chandler, Gilbert and Tempe add significantly to the population of this large metropolitan area. As with other areas of the state outside of the metro areas, the population is rural and sparsely populated.

African-Americans constitute 4% of the population of Maricopa County. American Indians constitute 8% of Pinal County and 2% of Maricopa County. Hispanics constitute 30% of the population of Pinal County and 25% of the population of Maricopa County. Asian/Pacific Islanders constitute 2% of the population of Maricopa County.

Key prevention issues in the Central region are ethnic/racial disparities, especially within the African American community, stigma, a lack of prevention education in schools, lack of a strong prevention marketing messages (social marketing), and access to care issues.

South

The southern region is comprised of seven counties: La Paz, Yuma, Pima, Santa Cruz Cochise, Graham and Greenlee. The area stretches from the Colorado River eastward to the New Mexico state line for a total of 340 miles. On the north-south axis the average width of the region is 170 miles. The region contains 33,000 square miles (a little larger than the state of South Carolina) and a population of 1,424,000. The southern boundary of the region is with the Mexican state of Sonora and a small portion of the region's western boundary is with Baja California del Norte. The largest city in the region is Tucson with a population of 535,000. Yuma, the second largest community, has 92,000 inhabitants. Other communities in the region with populations over 10,000 include Sierra Vista, Nogales, Oro Valley and Marana.

African Americans constitute 5% of the population of Cochise County, 3% of the population of Pima County and 2 % of the population of Yuma County. African

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Americans constitute less than 1% of the other counties in the region. American Indians constitute 13% of the population of La Paz County and 3% of the population of Pima County. Asian/Pacific Islanders constitute 2% of the population of Pima County. Hispanics account for 28% of Graham County and 43% of Greenlee County.

Hispanics constitute 81% of the population of Santa Cruz County, 50.5% of the population of Yuma County, 30% of the population of Cochise & Pima Counties, and 22.4% of the population of La Paz County.

Key HIV prevention issues in the Southern region include rural concerns, such as access to care, testing opportunities and prevention education. Other concerns are bilingual services/materials and a lack of IDU prevention programs.